



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 39 of 2025

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Based On News Item Published In My City, Navbharat, Bilaspur Bhoomi, Haribhoomi And Bilaspur Bhaskar, Dainik Bhaskar Dated 26th March, 2025 In Which News Items Titled Are As Follows -

Navbharat, My City, Bilaspur,

Nali Jam, Ganda Aur Badbudar Pani Sadko Par, Rahvasi Pareshan

Smart City Project Me Sahar Ke Alag Alag Marg Me Banaya Gaya Hai Footpath

Divyang Anukul Footpath Taiyar, Idhar Aam Aadmi Bhi Waha Paidal Nahi Chal Sakta

Kund Me Dale Gaye Jal Me Faskar Do Darjan Kachuvo Ki Mout

Maa Mahamaya Mandir Parisar Ratanpur Ka Mamla, Machali Marne Ke Liye Jal Dalne Ke Aasanka

Haribhoomi, Bilaspur Bhoomi, Bilaspur

Mahamaya Mandir Me Macha Hadkamp Machali Ke Jal Me Mirit Mile Do Darjan Kachuye

Dainik Bhaskar, Bilaspur

Safai Par Har Mahine 4.5 Karod Kharch Phir Bhi Omnagar Me Gandagi.

... Petitioner(s)

versus

1 - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur (C.G.)

2 - Secretary Department Of Fisheries, Mahanadi Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.)

3 - Secretary Urban Administration And Development Department, Atal Nagar, Raipur, (C.G.)

4 - Principal Chief Conservator Of Forest Cum Chief Wild Life Warden Mahanadi Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, Raipur (C.G.)

5 - Collector Bilaspur, District Biladpur (C.G)

6 - Superintendent Of Police Bilaspur, District Bilaspur (C.G.)

7 - Divisional Forest Officer Bilaspur, Division Bilaspur (C.G.)

8 - Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.

9 - Secretary Siddha Shakti Peeth Shri Mahamaya Devi Mandir Trust, Ratanpur, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur (C.G.)

... Respondent(s)

Order-Sheet

26/03/2025	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Prafull N Bharat, learned Advocate General alongwith

Mr. Y.S.Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General for the State/respondents No. 1 to 7 as well as Mr. Ashutosh Trivedi, learned counsel for the respondent No. 8

This suo moto public interest litigation petition has been registered on the basis of three news item published today in “Navbharat, My City” on 26.03.2025 with a heading “नालियां जाम, गंदा और बदबूदार पानी सडकों पर, रहवासी परेशान” and sub heading “साफ सफाई की व्यवस्था चरमराई, नालियों में अधूरे निर्माण से हो रही समस्या” and “दिव्यांग अनुकूल फुटपाथ तैयार, इधर आम आदमी भी वहां पैदल नहीं चल सकता” and “कुंड में डाले जाल में फंसकर दो दर्जन कछुओं की मौत” and in Haribhoomi with a heading “मछली के जाल में मृत मिले दो दर्जन कछुए” and in Dainik Bhaskar with a heading “सफाई पर हर महीने 4.5 करोड खर्च, फिर भी ओमनगर में गंदगी”.

The first news report relates to the waterlogged drainage of the Shubham Vihar Colony of Ward No. 14 and 15 of Bilaspur city. Photographs have also been published which shows a very pathetic situation where drains are clogged and the said news report goes to state that because of the said situation, there is foul smell coming and there is also an apprehension of spreading of Dengue which has made the life of common people a hell. The drains are not being cleaned regularly and the sewerage pipelines are also clogged. It seems that

the responsible authorities are not at all paying any heed towards the said situation despite numerous complaints being made by the residents of the locality.

Another news is with regard to the pathetic condition prevailing in Omnagar of Bilaspur city where an area is fully covered with garbage without there being any cleaning. The Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur is spending about 4.5 crores per month towards solid waste management but still various wards are full of garbage, filth and solid wastes which is causing menace to the people of the locality.

The second news relates to construction of footpath which is stated to be friendly for the specially abled persons. A photograph has also been published which speaks volumes. The said photograph clearly shows that even normal people cannot walk on the said footpath as the slabs are broken and the same is full of garbage. This was the part of the Smart City project and the said path was made especially for the specially abled persons. The said news report further states that crores of rupees have been spent under the Smart City Project and various footpath, cycle track, street sections were constructed at a cost of Rs. 40 Crores. In these streets, illegal encroachments have been made by the street vendors. Various beautification works were carried out in the city of Bilaspur including the ponds but no one is paying any heed towards and by the lapse of

time, all the construction works have started deteriorating. The cycle tracks are being used as parking for two wheelers and four wheelers and are being encroached. The entire news report shows a very grim picture of the Bilaspur city when it is a declared Smart City.

One another news relating to death of two dozens of tortoise in the pond of the Mahamaya Temple situated at Ratanpur, Bilaspur. The news report states that some unknown person has tried to put fishing net in the pond in which two dozens of tortoise got trapped and near the pond, the dead tortoise were lying. The said campus is under CCTV surveillance and a control room has also been constructed but still some person reached to the pond with fishing net and tried to catch fishes in which instead of fishes, the tortoise got trapped and died which raises question mark on the security of the temple area. Because of the said incident, the devotees are in deep anguish. The dead tortoise were taken by the team of Forest Department and postmortem would be conducted on those tortoise to ascertain the cause of death. The version of the Divisional Forest Officer has been published wherein he states that under the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, offence has been registered against unknown persons and the matter is being investigated.

In view of the aforesaid, we deem it appropriate to direct the Collector, Bilaspur and the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation,

Bilaspur to file their respective personal affidavits in the matter before the next date of hearing as to why they keep their eyes shut and do not take care of the situation which are reported in the print media having wide circulation as well as the electronic and social media and to further inform this Court as to what action have been taken by them on the aforesaid news reports.

It has been pointed out by Mr. Bharat that another petition being WPPIL No. 39/2024, relating to the issue of cleanliness is listed today and the same may also be connected with this case.

Let this matter be listed on **9th April, 2025** alongwith WPPIL No. 39/2024.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE